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**AN ARRANGEMENT FOR STORING AND/OR ORGANIZING
PHOTOGRAPHIC PRODUCTS**

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AN ARRANGEMENT FOR STORING AND/OR ORGANIZING
PHOTOGRAPHIC PRODUCTS
FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a holder or arrangement for storing
5 and/or organizing photographic products such as photographic prints and
negatives. The holder or arrangement of the present invention is in the form of an
envelope or wallet-type member that includes a tab for identifying the contents of
the wallet-type member. The envelope or wallet-type member is adapted to store
photographic prints and display a selected photographic print representative of the
10 stored photographic prints through a hole or window provided on the wallet-type
member.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Typically, when a customer desires to process a roll of
photographic film, the customer delivers his/her exposed film to a photofinisher
15 who processes the film and in due course returns to the customer a package
containing the finished photographic prints and their corresponding negatives.
The type of package delivered by the photofinisher is typically an envelope or
wallet-type member that is known in the industry as a wallet. The wallet is
constructed to hold the photographic prints and further may include a sleeve or
20 pocket for holding negatives.

In traditional photographic wallets, it is difficult to distinguish the
content of one wallet from another wallet since these wallets do not provide for a
way to visually identify the subject matter of the photographic prints in the wallet
in combination with a way to visually display an index print or a photographic
25 print that is representative of the photographic prints in the wallet.

U. S. Patent No. 6,024,278 discloses a mailable envelope
arrangement utilized for advertising materials. In U.S. Patent No. 6,024,278, a
window is provided on the envelope for identifying the nature of the contents
within the envelope and separator tabs are adapted to be inserted within the
30 envelope. However, in U.S. Patent 6,024,278, the separator tabs are provided as
separate elements within the envelope and, therefore, there is no way to see the
tabs from outside the when the envelope is closed. Further, when the envelope is

closed, U.S. Patent No. 6,024,278 does not permit a viewing of both the tab and the material that is displayed within an opening in the envelope.

U.S. Patent No. 5,988,372 discloses an arrangement or wallet for holding photographic prints. However, in the arrangement of U.S. Patent No. 5,988,372, a single tab forms an integral part of the planar wall of the arrangement and is provided at a corner of the arrangement. Further, in U.S. Patent No. 5,988,372, the single tab is basically for use by the photofinisher in identifying the customer order. When storing a plurality of photographic wallets or wallet-type members within a storage box in an adjacent manner, it is advantageous that the tabs do not line up one behind the other, in order to facilitate the viewing of the tabs. In U.S. Patent No. 5,988,372, the single tab is disclosed at the corner of the wallet and there is no provision for a customer to select the desired location of the tab based on where the customer would like to store the wallet.

What is needed is a holder for photographic products which gives the customer flexibility with respect to the location of an identifying tab. What is also needed is a holder for photographic products such as photographic prints which includes a tab and an opening or window on a wallet which permits the user to view both the tab and the opening or window at the same time. This permits a user to both distinguish the content of the photographic prints within the wallet through the use of the tab, and identify the nature of the photographic prints stored in the wallet by way of an index print or a representative print which is viewed or displayed through the opening or window.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides for a unique holder or arrangement for storing, organizing and locating photographic products such as photographic prints and negative. The arrangement of the present invention permits a customer's photographic prints to be returned in an envelope or wallet-type member that can have a clear plastic window and an opening through which a customer can see their first picture or an index print. The arrangement of the present invention further includes a tab that permits a customer to label the wallet-type member. In a feature of the tab of the present invention, at least two tabs and preferably four tabs can be provided on the wallet and can be removable by way

of a perforated or tear line. This permits a customer to select the location of the tab on the wallet-type member and thus, permits the insertion of the photographic wallet-type member into a storage box in a manner in which the identification of multiple wallet-type members lined up one behind the other is facilitated.

5 The present invention accordingly relates to a holder for holding at least photographic prints. The holder comprises a first planar member attached to a second planer member through a first fold line; first and second expandable end member at side ends of the first and second planar members, such that the first and second planar members and the first and second expandable end members define
10 an enclosure for holding at least photographic prints; a storage slot sized to receive and hold negatives therein, with the storage slot being attached to an end of the second planar member so as to hang over an outer surface of the second planar member; and at least two tabs attached to a top end of the first planar member; wherein a first perforated line is defined between the top end of the first planar member and the at least two tabs to permit a removal of each of the tabs
15 from the top end of the first planar member.

20 The present invention further relates to an arrangement for holding photographic products which comprises a first holding area for holding a first type of photographic product, with the first holding area having a first planar member and a second planar member; and at least two tabs removably provided on one of the first and second planar members of the first holding area.

25 The present invention further relates to a method of storing and organizing at least photographic prints which comprises the steps of inserting photographic prints into a first holding area defined by at least first and second planar members; and placing at least two tabs at an end of one of the first and second planar members, wherein a first tear line is provided between the at least two tabs and the end of the one of the first and second planar members to permit a removal of a selected one of the tabs, with the tabs being sized to permit the addition of identifying information thereon, and the identifying information being
30 related to at least the photographic prints held in the first holding area.

 The present invention further relates to an arrangement for storing and organizing at least photographic prints, with the arrangement comprising a

storage member adapted to store photographic prints, with the storage member comprising a planar member having at least one tab extending therefrom; and a removable portion on the planar member which is removable to form an opening in the planar member, with the opening being sized to permit a viewing of a photographic print in the storage member.

5 The present invention further relates to an arrangement for storing and organizing at least photographic prints which comprises a holding section adapted to store photographic prints, with the holding section comprising at least two tabs removably provided on the holding section; and a transparent window provided on the holding section, with the transparent window forming a pocket on the holding section to permit a viewing of a photographic print inserted in the pocket.

10 The present invention further relates to an arrangement for storing and organizing at least photographic prints which comprises a storing section adapted to store the photographic prints, with the storing section comprising at least two tabs removably provided on the storing section; and a removable portion on a planar member of the storing section, with the portion being removable to form an opening in the planar member, and the opening being sized to permit a viewing of a photographic print in the storage section.

15 The present invention further relates to an arrangement for storing and organizing at least photographic prints which comprises a wallet-type member adapted to store the photographic prints, with the wallet-type member comprising at least two tabs removably provided on the wallet-type member; and an opening provided on a planar member of the wallet-type member with the opening being sized to permit a viewing of a photographic print in the wallet-type member through the opening.

20 The present invention further relates to a method of delivering at least photographic prints to a customer which comprises the steps of inserting photographic prints into a wallet-type member; and placing at least two tabs at a top end of the wallet-type member, wherein a first tear line is provided between the at least two tabs and the top end of the wallet-type member to permit a removal of a selected one of the tabs, and the tabs are sized to permit the addition

of identifying information thereon by the customer, with the identifying information being related to the photographic prints held in the wallet-type member.

The present invention further relates to a method of delivering at least photographic prints to a customer which comprises the steps of inserting photographic prints into a wallet-type member; and permitting a visual display of one of the photographic prints in the wallet-type member by providing a removable portion on a planar member of the wallet-type member, with the removable portion being surrounded by a tear line and permitting the removal of the portion by the customer to form an opening in the planar member. The opening is sized to permit the visual display of a photographic print in the wallet-type member.

The present invention further relates to a holder adapted to hold at least photographic prints which comprises a wallet-type member adapted to hold photographic prints; and a removable portion on a planar member of the wallet-type member, with the removable portion being removable to form an opening in the planar member, and the opening being sized to permit a viewing of a photographic print in the wallet-type member.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an envelope-type member, wallet-type member or holder for photographic products in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2 is a planar view of one side of the wallet-type member of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a perspective view showing the relationship between the wallet-type member and a storage box in accordance with a feature of the present invention;

Figure 4 is a planar view of a side of the wallet-type member opposite to the view of Figure 2 illustrating a perforated or tear line for forming an opening on the wallet-type member in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 5 is a view of the wallet-type member of Figure 4 with the portion removed to reveal a picture-viewing opening;

Figure 6 is a view of the wallet-type member in accordance with the present invention in which the opening has a transparent window attached thereon;

5 Figure 7 is a view of the wallet-type member in accordance with the present invention, in which a transparent sheet forms a pocket on the wallet-type member; and

Figure 8 is a view of a further embodiment of a wallet-type member in accordance with the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

10 Referring to the drawings, wherein like reference numerals represent identical or corresponding parts throughout the several views, Figure 1 is a perspective view of an envelope or wallet-type member 10 for holding different types of photographic products in accordance with the present invention. In the photographic industry, an arrangement for holding photographic products as 15 will be described in the present specification is generally known as a wallet. As shown in Figure 1, wallet-type member 10 includes a first planar member 12 and a second planar member 14 which border each other at a fold line 18. At side ends of planar members 12 and 14 are expandable end member 16 only one of which is shown in Figure 1. Thus, the combination of planar members 12 and 14 and side 20 members 16 form an enclosure 30 for holding a first type of photographic product such as photographic prints therein. Extending from the top of first planar member 12 is a flap 20 which includes a storage slot 22. Storage slot 22 is sized to receive and hold a second type of photographic product such as photographic negatives therein.

25 In a first feature of the present invention as shown in Figure 1, multiple tabs are attached to a top end of planar member 14. In the embodiment shown in Figure 1, four tabs 24a, 24b, 24c and 24d extend along the top of wallet-type member 10 with a perforated or tear line 26 separating a top end of planar member 14 and tabs 24a-24d.

30 A second fold line 28 is provided below perforated or tear line 26 and a further flap 100 extends downward from the second fold line 28. Flap 30 is

sized so that in a closed position as illustrated in Figure 2, the enclosures formed by planar members 12, 14 and members 16 and storage slot 22 are covered.

As illustrated in Figure 1 and also in Figure 2, a feature of the present invention is the provision of tabs 24a-24d along the top of wallet-type member 10 in a manner in which tabs 24a-24d extend along the full width of planar member 14. The tabs are connected to the top of planar member 14 by way of perforated or tear line 26.

As previously described, a customer who orders photographic prints will customarily receive the prints in a wallet or wallet-type member. With the arrangement of the present invention as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, wallet-type member 10 would be returned to the customer with photographic prints inserted within enclosure 30 and negatives provided within storage slot 22. The provision of removable tabs 24a-24d permits a customer to identify the nature or content of the photographic prints by providing identifying information on any of tabs 24a-24d. Furthermore, the provision of tabs 24a-24d as shown with perforated or tear line 26 permits the customization of wallet-type member 10 by giving the customer the choice of which tabs 24a-24d to use and which tabs to remove. More specifically, in order to facilitate the storage and organization of photographic prints, a plurality of wallet-type members 10 can be provided within a storage box 300 as shown in Figure 3. In order to identify the subject matter of the photographic prints in each of the wallet-type members, identifying information can be written on any of tabs 24a-24d by a customer. As the customer continues to add wallet-type members 10 to storage box 300, the customer can stagger or offset the location of tabs 24a-24d so as to permit an unobstructed view of each of the tabs 24a-24d while in box 300. The provision of multiple tabs 24a-24d as shown in Figure 2 with perforated or tear line 26 thereon as also shown in Figure 2 gives the customer the ability to select which of tabs 24a-24d is to be used in accordance with where the wallet-type member is to be located within storage box 300.

More specifically, and as shown in Fig. 3, in a first wallet-type member 10a, tabs 24b-24d can be removed by way of tear line 26 leaving only tab 24a thereon. If a second wallet-type member 10b is to be placed behind first

wallet-type member 10a in storage box 300, tabs 24a, 24c and 24d can be removed leaving tab 24b on wallet-type member 10b. As wallet-type members 10c and 10d are added to box 300, wallet-type members 10c and 10d can be customized to respectively leave only tabs 24c and 24d thereon. Therefore, as 5 shown in Fig. 3, tabs 24a-24d for each respective wallet-type member 10a-10d are in an offset relation and do not obstruct each other. If further wallet-type members are to be placed behind envelope 10d, the sequence as noted above is repeated to again create the offset relation shown in Fig. 3.

In a further feature of the present invention, planar member 14 of 10 wallet-type member 10 can be provided with a further perforated or tear line arrangement as shown in Figure 4. In the example of Figure 4, reference numerals 40a, 40b, 40c and 40d define the further perforated or tear line arrangement. In the example of Figure 4, tear lines 40a and 40c and tear lines 40b and 40d are parallel to each other so as to define a continuous tear line in the form of a 15 rectangle. Perforated or tear line 40a-40d defines a portion 14a on planar member 14 which is removable along tear line 40a-40d to form an opening 46 as shown in Figure 5. For ease of manufacture, portion 14a is preferably made of the same material as wallet-type member 10 and is, therefore, preferably non-transparent. The removal of portion 14a along tear line 40a-40d can be facilitated by the use of 20 apertures or openings 42a, 42b (Fig. 4) which can be sized to permit the insertion of a portion of a user's finger when the user desires to tear portion 14a from planar member 14.

Therefore, with the arrangement of the present invention as shown 25 in Figure 4, when a wallet-type member 10 having photographic prints therein is returned to a customer, wallet-type member 10 will include tear line 40a-40d as shown to define removable portion 14a, and optionally, apertures or openings 42a, 42b. With this arrangement, the customer simply has to remove portion 14a as shown along perforated or tear line 40a-40d. This creates opening 46 (Fig. 5) and provides the customer with an opportunity to place a desired photographic print 30 adjacent to opening 46 so as to be viewable or displayed through opening 46. The photographic print placed at opening 46 would preferably be a photographic print which is representative of the prints stored in wallet-type member 10 and can

more preferably be an index print 200 as shown in wallet-type member 10a of Fig. 3.

With this arrangement, the customer can easily view the first picture or the index print representative of the prints stored within wallet-type member 10. This provides the customer with a further way to distinguish wallet-type member 10 and thereby facilitates the storage, organization and location of multiple wallet-type members and photographs. The combination of opening 46 as well as tabs 24a-24d as shown further provides the customer with the combination of a visual representation or display of a photographic print which is representative of the photographic prints stored in wallet-type member 10, as well as identification information provided on a selected tab 24a-24d. Further, by presenting the customer with multiple tabs 24a-24d with perforated or tear line 26 between the tab and planar member 14, the ability to customize which tab the customer desires to use so as to facilitate the viewing of the tab within storage box 300 is also realized. As shown in Figure 4, removable portion 14a and tabs 24a-24d are preferably provided on the same planar member 14 so as to facilitate the viewing of tabs 24a-24d and opening 46 at the same time.

In a further embodiment, as shown in Figure 6 a transparent sheet or window 50 can be adhered to opening 46. As an example, transparent sheet 50 can be made of a plastic material. With this arrangement, after portion 14a is removed, opening 46 would be revealed, and transparent sheet 50 would be positioned within opening 46 so as to provide protection for the first print adjacent to opening 46.

In a still further embodiment, wallet-type member 10 can be delivered to the customer in the manner shown in Figure 5. That is, wallet-type member 10 can be delivered with opening 46 already thereon and, for example, an index print at the opening. Thereafter, the customer simply has to decide which of tabs 24a-24d to use for storage and identification while maintaining the ability to pick which photographic print is to be placed at opening 46. As a further option with this embodiment where opening 46 is already provided on the wallet-type member, transparent sheet 50 can be provided at opening 46 as in Fig. 6. Again, transparent sheet 50 is useful in protecting the print at opening 46.

In a further embodiment of the present invention as shown in Figure 7, a transparent sheet 75 can be adhered along three sides onto planar member 14 to form a pocket 78. With this arrangement, when a wallet-type member 10 is provided to the customer with photographic prints therein, the 5 customer can choose which photographic print to place within pocket 78 and again, decide which tab 24a-24d to use and what information to provide on the tab.

In a still further embodiment, the wallet-type member of Figure 7 can be provided with a non-transparent removable portion provided over 10 transparent sheet 78. Thereafter, the customer simply removes the removable portion to reveal the pocket formed by transparent sheet 78. Thereafter, the customer decides which photographic print to place within the pocket and which tab to utilize.

Referring back to Figure 4, although a rectangle removable portion 15 14a is shown bordered by perforated or tear line 40a-40d, the present invention is not limited to a rectangular opening. It is recognized that removable portion 14a can be of any shape or size, for example, removable portion 14a can take the form of a square, a parallelogram, a circle, a half-moon, a triangle or any other 20 geometric shape which is sized so as to at least provide enough of a view of the photographic print provided adjacent to the opening.

As described above, opening 46 permits a user to display a desired photographic print or index print on or in wallet-type member 10 which is 25 representative of the prints stored in photographic envelope 10. Further, tabs 24a-24d permit a user to provide identifying information on the wallet-type member, and the provision of perforated or tear line 26 permits the user to remove a selected tab and leave a desired tab on the wallet-type member based on where the user decides to place the wallet-type member within storage box 300.

A further advantage of the perforated tab and perforated opening of 30 the present invention is that the wallet-type member can be utilized in high speed automated packaging environments which are utilized in wholesale photofinishing labs.

Also, although four tabs 24a-24d are shown, the present invention is not limited thereto. In a further embodiment of the present invention, wallet-type member 10 includes a single tab 24' and removable portion 14a as shown in Fig. 8. In this embodiment, a perforated or tear line between tab 24' and the top of 5 wallet-type member 10 is not necessary. This embodiment permits the user to remove portion 14a to display a desired photographic print and provide identifying information on the single tab.

Additionally, the number of tabs can be varied and tabs of various widths can be provided on wallet-type member 10. For example, and with 10 reference to Figures 2 and 4, it is shown that the width of each of tabs 24a-24d match the width of wallet-type member 10. It is possible to practice the present invention with two removable tabs wherein one tab matches the width of tabs 24a and 24b and the second tab matches the width of tabs 24c and 24d.

Therefore, the present invention provides for a wallet-type member 15 which facilitates the storage, organization and location of photographic prints. In one embodiment of the wallet-type member of the present invention, tabs are removably provided on the end of the envelope in a manner in which selected tabs can be removed so as to customize the position of the tab on the envelope. In a further embodiment, an opening can be provided on the envelope so as to display 20 a selected photographic print or index print representative of the prints stored in the envelope. Further, this opening can be utilized in combination with a single tab. In a further feature of the present invention, the tab or tabs and the opening are provided on the same planar member of the wallet-type member so as to enable the viewing of both the tab or tabs and the displayed photographic print at 25 the same time.

The invention has been described in detail with particular reference to certain preferred embodiments thereof, but it will be understood that variations and modifications can be effected within the spirit and scope of the invention.